

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, FORESTRY, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

327 House Office Building

Thursday 8:30 A.M.

December 8, 2005

Representative Tom Casperson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Representative Casperson requested attendance be called to establish a quorum of the appointed committee members:

Present: Representatives Casperson, Hildenbrand, Garfield, Nitz, Stakoe, Baxter, Rocca, McDowell, Sheltroun, Gillard and Espinoza.

Representative Garfield moved, supported by **Representative Sheltroun**, to approve the minutes of the **December 1, 2005** meeting.

There being no objection, the motion prevailed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair laid HB 5453, HB 5454, HB 5455, HB 5456, HB 5457, HB 5458 and HB 5462 before the committee.

HB 5453	Casperson	Natural resources; forests; timber harvests on state forestlands; restrict only if provided by state or federal law.
HB 5454	Elsenheimer	Natural resources; forests; commercial forests; modify penalties for withdrawing lands from commercial forest.
HB 5455	Huizenga	Natural resources; forests; commercial forest act; modify eligibility criteria.
HB 5456	Walker	Economic development; renaissance zones; forest products renaissance zones; create.
HB 5457	Emmons	Taxation; other; qualified forest property recapture tax; create.
HB 5458	Robertson	Education; other; qualified forest property; exempt from operating mills.
HB 5462	Farhat	Property tax; classification; tax incentive for managing private forestland through a development rights agreement; provide for.

The following submitted testimony cards indicating **support** for the package of forestry bills, but did not wish to speak.

Des Jones, representing the Michigan Tree Farm System

Jon Lamy, representing the Louisiana-Pacific/Timber Producers Association

Scott Robbins, representing the Smurfit-Stone Corporation

Judy Augenstein, representing the Timber Producers Association

James McBryde, representing the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, submitted a testimony card indicating a neutral position but did not wish to speak.

Peggy Johnson, representing Michigan Department of Treasury, testified indicating opposition to **HB 5454, HB 5457, HB 5458 and HB 5462** as written.

The following testified in **support** of the package of forestry bills before committee.

Kelvin Smyth, representing the NewPage Corporation*

Thomas A. Barnes, representing the Michigan Association of Timbermen*

Paul Call, representing the Weyerhaeuser Company*

McClain Smith, representing the Michigan Forest Association

Dennis Werblow, representing the Decorative Panels International Company*

Frank Laurence, Jr., representing the Georgia-Pacific Corporation

George Berghorn, representing the Michigan Forest Products Council*

Ron Nelson, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau

Sam Washington, representing the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, testified in opposition to the package of forestry bills.

The following submitted testimony cards but did not get to speak due to time constraints.

Steve Arwood, representing the Heart of the Lakes, indicating a neutral position at this time.

Rodney Stokes and Lynne Boyd, representing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the **Chair** adjourned the meeting, the time being **10:25 a.m.**

Representative Tom Casperson, Chair

Dave Mead
Committee Clerk
December 8, 2005
1 hour, 55 minutes

Date Approved and Signed

* indicated printed material attached to original minutes.